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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation (Khan Foundation) (KF) is a private non-profit philanthropic organization devoted to promoting democratic and socio-economic development in Bangladesh. It brings together parliamentarians, academics, professionals, members of civil society, executives and the business community and, at the same time, includes farmers, women and children and other disadvantaged groups at the grass-roots level. Its main aim is to alleviate poverty and generate productive employment through advocacy and training and to promote the cause of "democracy for development and development for democracy".

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization regularly participates in the work of the United Nations and aims to advance the objectives of the Economic and Social Council, United Nations agencies and subsidiary bodies, including by carrying out preparatory activities for various major conferences, organizing events in connection with other United Nations meetings and carrying out activities in support of United Nations global principles. The Khan Foundation works towards the goal of achieving democracy and human rights in the belief that democracy needs to be established and sustained if a country wishes to promote universal human rights, including, inter alia, freedom of speech, civil liberties, voting rights, women's and children's rights.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: the Executive Director of the Khan Foundation participated in the meetings of the 51st session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Democracy and development: (a) strengthening of local government in order to ensure grass-roots development. This has been achieved by training public representatives at the grass-roots level by organizing seminars, training workshops and democracy fairs in different parts of Bangladesh; (b) national seminar on local government held on 25 May 2006 at the Democracy Auditorium of the Khan Foundation, Bangladesh, at which participants discussed how to hold a transparent and free and fair election in Bangladesh. **Monitoring of General Elections 2009**: as a partner of the non-partisan Election Working Group, a 32-member national coalition of civil society organizations, sponsored and promoted by the international community, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Khan Foundation participated as an observer of the ninth parliamentary elections of Bangladesh, held on 29 December 2008. KF undertook election observation in 16 constituencies in 8 districts and deployed 8,823 observers in these centres. The goal was to achieve transparency of voting with a view to strengthening a transparent and accountable system of governance in Bangladesh. **Good governance and anti-corruption awareness**: during 2007 and 2008, KF collaborated with PROGATI (Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Accountability), a project of the United States Agency for International

Development in an attempt to reduce corruption and thus ensure good governance. KF developed a module on citizen monitoring of public services, conducted five days' training on this module for various grass-roots groups around the country. KF conducted an anti-corruption campaign and citizen monitoring campaign in various districts of Bangladesh. **Population and development**: KF continued its involvement with the International Conference on Population and Development by taking part in Preparatory Committee meetings. It organized a whole range of policy dialogues, round tables on different issues, including implementation of Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Bangladesh in accordance with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) principles. **Combating trafficking of women and children**: (a) Conference on "Trafficking on the SAARC Agenda: The Way Forward", held on 17 November 2005 in Dhaka, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); (b) trafficking in women and children programme — various activities to save and rehabilitate helpless women and children. KF has tried to highlight the issue of trafficking in women and children in its different programmes through an integrated approach. The Foundation carried out two simultaneous programmes, through which the local-level elected representatives received training on multiple issues; (c) project entitled "Effective Involvement of Elected Women Members in the Local Government Structure: A Participatory Approach". KF has trained 41,146 elected women members in the local government of different districts on trafficking in women and children; the sixth Women's Lawyers' Congress was held on 22 and 23 March 2005 in Bangladesh and was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); (d) project on capacity-building of Union Parishad; KF has focused on women and the consequences and dangers of trafficking. **Gender awareness**: based on an agreement between the Khan Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the organization worked on a gender mainstreaming programme for the empowerment of coastal fishing communities in Cox's Bazar. Presently, KF is in the process of developing an operational manual on enhancing women's networking forums. In order to create awareness and sensitize the aforementioned groups and encourage the establishment of a sensitive courtroom environment, the Khan Foundation organized workshops on gender equality issues in the justice system at the Foundation's Democracy Auditorium. KF received active support from the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for organizing this programme. **Poverty Alleviation Programme (RCP)**: the Rural Credit Programme provided support to disadvantaged rural women and helped them gain economic self-sufficiency. It provided loans to women at the grass-roots level without collateral so that borrowers could invest their money in various income-generating activities within the small and medium enterprise training projects in order to improve their economic power, promote solvency and ultimately raise social awareness. The recovery rate for Khan Foundation has been above 95 per cent, one of the highest recovery rates in the country. KF consciously involved adolescent girls in this income-generation programme.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: the Khan Foundation has been working on promoting health and safety by reducing the infant mortality rate (Goal 4), tackling maternal health problems (Goal 5) and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS (Goal 6). Its main targets are women and children, the majority of whom are neither aware about how to prevent them nor have access to proper health care and medication. The Khan Foundation's campaigns to increase awareness about

HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases continued during the reporting period: it provided free medical support to 1,792 participants of disadvantaged groups, including street children, slum children, domestic children, sex workers and garment workers. The project was largely funded by the German Embassy. Since July 2005 KF has also provided pathological support to 106 participants.

Activities in support of global principles: (a) Universal Children's Day (20 November) and World Children's Day (2 October) were observed by the Khan Foundation every year from 2005 to 2008 to promote the goals, including ensuring children's rights and eliminating child labour and trafficking. Members of Parliament, policymakers, professionals, academics, social activists, bureaucrats, business groups and trade organizations were brought together by KF during 2006 and 2007 to discuss issues of child labour and child trafficking and work out ways and means of advancing these causes in Bangladesh; (b) KF organized International Women's Day (8 March) with the objective of eliminating all kinds of discrimination against women from 2005 to 2008. Participants included women activists, ambassadors in Bangladesh (in particular, women ambassadors in Bangladesh), the UNDP Representative, grass-roots groups and street children. A fair, including a short play on women's rights by renowned National Play Group "Nagorik Natyangan", was organized with great enthusiasm on 8 March 2008 on the KF campus; (c) on Human Rights Day (10 December 2007), the Bangladesh National Commission on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a seminar in which the Khan Foundation participated and presented a paper on human rights and education.

Research and publications: the Khan Foundation actively participated and presented papers in many national and international seminars and conferences related to the goals of the United Nations.

2. Advocates for Youth (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Advocates for Youth was founded as the Center for Population Options in 1980. It promotes programmes and policies domestically and internationally that help young people make responsible decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. The organization was one of the first to put adolescents' reproductive and sexual health needs in the agenda of the international family planning field; it created Life Planning Education, a ground-breaking programme that put sexuality into a life-skills/youth development context; and it has been at the forefront of a national and international legislative strategy to support evidence-based programming for young people. Advocates for Youth provides information, training, and strategic assistance to youth-serving organizations, policymakers, youth activists, and media in the United States of America and developing countries.

Rights.Respect.Responsibility.® continues to serve as Advocates for Youth's vision: all young people have inalienable rights to accurate and complete sexual health information, confidential services and a secure stake in the future; youth deserve respect and should be meaningfully involved in policies and programmes that affect their health and well-being; and society has the responsibility to provide all young people with the tools they need to safeguard their sexual health, while youth have

the responsibility to protect themselves from too-early childbearing and sexually transmitted infections.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: with the support of UNFPA, Advocates for Youth, in collaboration with the Global Youth Coalition on AIDS, organized a two-day youth summit for 60 young people from 30 countries at the United Nations high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS. The goal of the summit was to empower youth leaders to inform, educate and influence government with regard to funding, programmes and/or policies for youth and HIV/AIDS. Advocates sponsored 12 youth participants from Botswana, Jamaica, Nigeria, Peru and the United States of America. Topics addressed during the summit included: an overview of the United Nations system; responses to the global AIDS pandemic; interventions to achieve the global goals on HIV/AIDS among young people in low- and middle-income countries; HIV prevention programming for adolescents; educational outreach to United Nations missions; and media and message development. The last part of the summit focused on developing a youth message, which young people shared with their delegations over the course of the meeting. Beyond the youth summit, participants attended panels, round tables, civil society meetings and meetings with country delegatio during the high-level meeting. Advocates also co-facilitated the youth caucus meetings held during the high-level meeting, each of which was attended by approximately 35 youth. Advocates for Youth nominated one of its youth activists from Jamaica to speak on the panel on the feminization of HIV/AIDS at the high-level meeting and to address the need for more comprehensive HIV prevention information and reproductive health services for young women and young people in order to prevent HIV. During the high-level meeting, Advocates for Youth drew media attention to the needs and roles of young people in preventing HIV around the world. In addition, one of Advocates for Youth's activists from the United States of America blogged throughout the meeting, posting blogs on www.rhrealitycheck.org, a website focused on reproductive and sexual health policies and issues.

Prior to the meeting, Advocates for Youth and the Global Youth Coalition on AIDS met with 16 country missions and with the Office of the President of the General Assembly to share information about new HIV infections among youth and suggested language for country statements or the declaration. As a result, language was included in the declaration that references the need for comprehensive HIV prevention education for young people and access to condoms.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG): Advocates for Youth contributed in numerous countries, with specific emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean: Goal 5: Improve maternal health (target: achieve universal access to reproductive health); and Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (target: have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS).

Since February 2008 — Advocates' International Youth Speak Out Project worked to support youth activists in Ethiopia, Jamaica and Nigeria, and around the world, to advocate for improved youth reproductive and sexual health policies in their countries, including ensuring access to contraception and HIV prevention, testing and treatment. Advocates for Youth reached 1,200 youth activists across

60 countries every month with information on sexual and reproductive health issues and policies and built the capacity of 30 young leaders to advocate for sexual and reproductive health.

January-August 2008 — Advocates for Youth, in partnership with the International AIDS Society, UNFPA, the Global Youth Coalition on AIDS, Youth Coalition, TakingITGlobal and Ave de México, implemented core components of the International AIDS Conference's Mexico Youth Force. As a leading partner of the Youth Force, Advocates for Youth secured streamlined participation of young people in plenaries and in organizing committees; trained a total of 250 young people in global HIV/AIDS issues, policies and advocacy, implemented an advocacy campaign that disseminated messages developed by young people prior to the conference; supported a youth reception and the youth pavilion; and contributed through presentations during the conference itself.

February 2005-February 2008 — Advocates for Youth was a partner organization in the Jamaica's Solution to Youth Empowerment and Lifestyle (JA-STYLE) project, working with 19 community and faith-based organizations from nine parishes to improve life skills education and parent child communication with a focus on sexual and reproductive health, including adolescent pregnancy and HIV prevention. A total of 23,500 adolescents from 100 communities were reached.

Since January 2005 — Advocates for Youth reached 11,056,721 young people, parents and youth-serving professionals through its various websites and web interventions with information on sexual and reproductive health and policies. The Advocates for Youth website caters to youth activists globally and hosted a global blogathon for World AIDS Day and a Jamaica Safer Sex Week blogathon in 2008.

Since January 2005 — Advocates for Youth has continued its International Youth Leadership project, which supports a group of eight youth leaders from the Washington, D.C. area to mobilize peers, conduct media outreach and lobby the United States Government and international agencies for science-based international family planning and HIV prevention. Their advocacy efforts contributed to significant success in 2008. Council members participated in coalitions to plan World AIDS Day events in Washington, D.C., recruited youth for rallies and conducted media outreach for International Women's Day.

January-December 2005 — the YouthLife Initiative provided capacity-building to three youth-led non-profit organizations in Botswana, Nigeria and South Africa to manage, implement and sustain youth-focused HIV prevention programming and advocacy efforts.

January-December 2005 — Advocates for Youth concluded its six-cybercafe initiative, which supported gay rights non-profit organizations in Central America to train young people on how to use a computer and navigate the Internet and educate them on HIV prevention and safer sex practices. The project also supported cybercafes for youth in Botswana, Nigeria and South Africa.

3. League of Women Voters of the United States (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Its goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. The organization has worked since 1920 to improve our systems of government and public policies through citizen education and advocacy. It is a grass-roots organization, working at the national, state and local levels in the United States and is strictly non-partisan; it neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. At the same time, the League is wholeheartedly political and works to influence policy through advocacy. It is the original grass-roots citizen network, directed by the consensus of its members nationwide. The 900 state and local leagues contribute a vast grass-roots lobby corps that can be mobilized when necessary. The organization remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: during the reporting period, LWV participated in and submitted written statements at Commission on the Status of Women meetings. In February and March 2005, LWV helped conduct caucuses on and for girls and conducted a political participation workshop side event. LWV also presented a parallel event at the United Nations LWV presented a training session to 200 girls on the Commission on the Status of Women process on 24 February 2007 at the United Nations Church Center in New York and assisted with the Girls Speak Out forum which was held on 2 March 2007 at United Nations Headquarters. This was immediately followed by a press conference at the United Nations in the press briefing room arranged by LWV and another organization. During all the Commission on the Status of Women meetings LWV spoke to Commission members and other Government delegates about the needs of the girl child, women and older women. Working with the members of non-governmental organizations coalitions, wording on these issues was drafted and suggested to government delegates. As a result, some of the wording was adopted by the delegates and used in outcome documents. These took place during all the Commission on the Status of Women meetings: in 2008, this included an emphasis on violence against girls; in 2007, LWV attended two round tables, one on discrimination against the girl child and the other on violence against the girl child. LWV, along with other non-governmental organizations, signed document EGM/FFGE/2007/OP.3 for the Expert Group Meeting on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women held in Oslo, 4 to 7 September 2007 and signed E/CN.5/2006/NGO/1 for the Commission for Social Development in 2006.

Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies: a special focus for LWV at the United Nations has been as a member of the Steering Committee of the non-governmental organizations Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Girls, which worked to focus the attention of world Governments on the plight of girls. The Group worked closely with UNICEF. It formed the International Network for Girls, a worldwide advocacy network working on behalf of the girl

child and used information obtained from this network to prepare reports on the situation of girls worldwide which were presented to delegates at United Nations meetings. LWV worked on newsletters that were sent to members of the International Network for Girls to keep them abreast of United Nations issues and meetings about girls. LWV chaired the website committee of the Working Group. LWV also chaired a task force to protect girls from violence, in response to the Secretary-General's efforts to combat violence against women. It presented a programme on violence against girls on 29 November 2007 at United Nations Headquarters, New York, with speakers from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UNICEF. In 2008, LWV worked with the Division for the Advancement of Women on the Herbert Grants selection. LWV served on the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the United Nations. Work on this Committee included serving on the Communications Workshop Committee and chairing a communication workshop in February 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York; chairing the Nominating Committee; co-chairing the website committee; conducting training sessions for non-governmental organizations and writing articles for the newsletter.

During the reporting period, LWV attended hearings and meetings at United Nations Headquarters, New York, held for non-governmental organizations by the Presidents of the General Assembly.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): LWV observers contributed to the work of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations by being an active member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. In 2008, because of its strong focus on global climate change, LWV joined the Task Force on Women and Climate Change of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, contributing to Goals 3 and 7. LWV worked in collaboration with the United States Fund for UNICEF. These efforts helped to promote Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. LWV attended the meetings of the five-year review of a World Fit for Children, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11-13 December 2007, which promoted Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Activities in support of global principles: LWV representatives carried out the following activities: (a) attended the briefings of the non-governmental organizations Committee on UNIFEM; (b) served on the Executive Board of the Council Of Organizations of the United Nations Association — United States of America and helped to plan their monthly briefing for the New York area; (c) served on the Association's National Council, whose mission was to promote the United Nations in the United States; (d) promoted issues through public speaking engagements and outreach to LWV members around the country; (e) local LWV members informed their communities about the United Nations and the work it accomplishes to urge financial support for the United Nations. In order to help local LWV members to do this, the national LWV wrote articles for the National Voter and distributed it to all members. Other articles about the United Nations were sent to the presidents of all local branches. Many local LWV organizations included these articles in their local newsletters.

Promoting democracy in the United States: the goal of most LWV programmes is to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; and that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision-making.

Our work grows from the conviction that government at all levels must be accountable, accessible to citizens and protective of their rights. Local LWV organizations monitor their local government meetings and address local issues. The LWV has been actively involved in getting out the vote; promoting communities of inclusion to combat racism; and informing the public about public policy issues. On a national level, the LWV has many positions that have been reached by grass-roots consensus or concurrence of all local LWV branches. These include positions on issues as diverse as representative government, citizen rights, international relations, natural resources, environmental protection and pollution control, climate change and social policy. The latter includes equality of opportunity, fiscal policy, health care, meeting basic human needs, childcare, early intervention for children at risk, violence prevention, gun control and urban policy. Local LWV organizations can act in their communities on these issues. Most of these issues are of concern to the Economic and Social Council. In addition to the national positions mentioned, state and local LWV organizations have positions they have arrived at in their state or local consensus process and they can act locally on these issues. International: LWV has been involved in many international initiatives to train grass-roots women leaders in the political process or provide technical assistance and training manuals to female candidates and observe or monitor elections. This has included the following programmes: in 2008, a programme in Armenia for non-governmental organization professionals; in 2006, LWV conducted training on organizing debates for political candidates in Abuja in preparation for Nigeria's April 2007 presidential, gubernatorial and legislative elections; LWV conducted an exchange programme with Kenyan citizens between 2005 and 2007; LWV held programmes of civic hosting for leaders from Tajikistan in October 2008 and in Azerbaijan in November 2008, and for Russian Federation leaders in October-November 2008; LWV worked on empowering citizens to influence public policy in Jamaica in 2005; LWV conducted a workshop on political skills for candidates in Zambia in 2006. **Promoting United Nations funding and issues on Capitol Hill**: LWV actively supported the establishment of the United Nations in 1945 and was invited by the United States to attend the United Nations Charter Conference in San Francisco, California, in 1945, as one of 42 non-governmental organization consultants. LWV believes that the United States should fulfil its obligations to the United Nations expeditiously and without restrictions. As part of a diverse, bipartisan coalition in support of the United Nations, LWV has lobbied key members of Congress on payment of United States arrears to the United Nations and activated members in key States on the issue. LWV also lobbied in the United States Congress for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and worked with coalitions towards this aim. LWV has been one of the most steadfast supporters of the United Nations from the time of its establishment to the present day.

4. New Zealand Family Planning Association (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The New Zealand Family Planning Association (Family Planning) is a non-governmental organization that provides clinical, educational and policy services with a view to ensuring the achievement of sexual and reproductive health

and rights for all. The Association has an international unit — Family Planning International — that focuses on advocacy and projects to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, through universal realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The only change in Family Planning since our Economic and Social Council application is that Family Planning International's geographical focus is now predominantly, but not exclusively, on the Pacific region (previously the unit's focus was equally spread across South-East Asia and the Pacific).

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: the Commission on the Status of Women: (a) 49th session: participated in regional meetings leading up to this session and attended the session as a non-governmental organization representative. Family Planning's Chief Executive attended as part of the New Zealand Government delegation; (b) 50th session: attended as a member of the New Zealand Government delegation; (c) 51st session: two Family Planning International staff members attended in their capacity as civil society representatives; (d) 52nd session: attended as a member of the New Zealand Government delegation. **Commission on Population and Development**: 40th session: two Family Planning International staff members attended in their capacity as civil society representatives. **World Summit**: the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the General Assembly: the Chief Executive attended as a member of the New Zealand Government delegation. **Family Planning activities**: (a) comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the targets set in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly and at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. Family Planning Chief Executive attended as part of the New Zealand Government delegation; it also achieved New Zealand ministerial attendance at this meeting; (b) High-Level Meeting on AIDS, 10-11 June 2008. The Family Planning International Manager attended as a member of the New Zealand Government delegation. A representative of Positive Women attended on behalf of Family Planning as a New Zealand civil society representative; Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus: Family Planning sent a representative to this meeting as part of the New Zealand civil society delegation.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Family Planning has worked with UNFPA in a variety of ways. Every year we receive a small grant to work on raising awareness in New Zealand about population and development issues. This included providing secretariat support for the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development. In collaboration with UNFPA, Family Planning hosted the annual launch of their State of the World Population report. Prior to and including 2005, we worked with UNFPA as the implementing agency for the Male Involvement in Reproductive Health Project in Fiji and Solomon Islands. This came to an end in late 2005. We keep in regular contact with the UNFPA Office of the Pacific and work together on issues where

appropriate and possible. We work with the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Fiji in building a Pacific network to achieve gender equality and we were actively engaged in the United Nations Gender Equality Architecture reform process.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: Family Planning International exists to advance internationally agreed development goals, in particular those set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Development Goals and other agreed goals, such as those in the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women. We do this by carrying out advocacy and projects that aim to promote sexual and reproductive rights and choices, and enable people to enjoy respectful sexual relationships and create healthy families. Our projects support partner organizations, primarily in the Pacific, to provide quality information and services to their communities. Our advocacy creates supportive environments, builds effective public policy and ensures adequate funding for population and development issues, in particular sexual and reproductive health, in international development activities.

In practice, the unit has a project in Papua New Guinea that aims to halt and reverse the spread of HIV, through working with men to be better sexual and reproductive partners. We have a home-based care project in Cambodia that supports women and children living with HIV. We inform and motivate New Zealand parliamentarians to take action to improve prioritization of population and development in New Zealand's official development assistance. We work with policymakers and programmers to ensure attention in their work to population and development. We produce resources and information to inform the general public of New Zealand, media, parliamentarians, policymakers and programmers about how sexual and reproductive health, and population and development, are vital in achieving internationally agreed development goals, and about international development in general.

5. Rodale Institute (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The aims of the organization: Rodale Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that creates global solutions from the ground up. Our soil scientists and a cooperating network of researchers have documented that organic farming techniques offer the best solution to global warming and famine. We were founded in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, in 1947 by organic pioneer J.I. Rodale. Our Farming Systems Trial®, the longest-running United States study comparing organic and conventional farming techniques, is the basis for our practical training to thousands of farmers in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Our findings are clear: a global organic transformation will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in our atmosphere and restore soil fertility. Our mission: we improve the health and well-being of people and the planet.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The Rodale Institute undertook specific activities to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically the goals of ensuring environmental sustainability and developing global partnerships for development.

These specific activities are chronicled in the following sections.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: (a) 4 February-14 March 2008 — Mr. Amadou Makhtar Diop, Head of Rodale Institute's International Department and other key Rodale Institute staff participated in an online discussion on achieving sustainable development; (b) representatives attended the 60th and 58th Department of Public Information Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations; (c) March 2005 — preparatory meeting for the Economic and Social Council high-level segment to review/discuss the Millennium Development Goals.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: (a) 1 January-31 July 2008 — the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture funded collaborative work, preparation of joint research papers and abstracts and presentations at international conferences. Abstract topics included greenhouse gases in agriculture, biological no-till, composting and soil fertility management, mycorrhizal fungi research and carbon sequestration.

Activities in line with internationally agreed development goals, particularly Millennium Development Goals: Funded international projects: (a) United States Agency for International Development/AFRICARE project 1 (ongoing): entitled "Timbuktu Food Security Initiative". Project funds pilot training on regenerative agriculture techniques and demonstration sites in Timbuktu and Dire, Mali. The Biketown Africa programme in collaboration with Rodale, provided bicycles to groups (such as health-care workers) fighting HIV/AIDS in Botswana, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa. Health-care workers used the bikes to distribute antiretroviral drugs and provide home care to people infected with HIV and disseminated information on how people can protect themselves from HIV and the importance of being tested for the virus; (b) 1 October 2004-30 March 2007, Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Collaborative Research Support Program: the United States Agency for International Development and Virginia Polytechnic Institute funded research/case study reviews on the state of science in soil quality in the tropics. Mr. Hepperly prepared a text book chapter on field production systems for the review book. **Conferences/presentations: 2008**: (a) 16-20 June — International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements Organic World Congress Conference, "Cultivate the Future", Modena, Italy — representatives of Rodale Institute attended the conference and a poster was presented on energetics and oral statements made on organic no-till techniques and on organic agriculture and greenhouse gases; (b) 1 May — Al Gore's Solutions Summit, New York — participated in round-table discussions on solutions to the climate crisis; (c) 17-18 April — Organic Agriculture and Climate Change in Clermont-Ferrand, Lempdes, France — Mr. Hepperly was keynote speaker on biological agriculture and climatic change contribution to greenhouse gas emissions; (d) 13 and 14 March — International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements/International Society of Organic Agriculture Research International Symposium on Soil Fertility, Seoul, South Korea, entitled "Organic Agriculture in

Asia: Soil Fertility and Efficient Crop Production" — Mr. Hepperly presented on greenhouse gases and organic agriculture, discussed Rodale research, participated in scientific programmes. **2007**: (a) 4-8 November: international annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America, New Orleans, LA, entitled "A Century of Integrating Crops, Soil and Environment" — Rodale Institute agronomist David Wilson spoke about organic farming techniques, including crop cover management and the no-till roller; (b) Fourth Annual Seeds of Change Global Summit held in August in Santa Fe; (c) Summer 2007 — Rodale Institute hosted students from Gyeongsang National University in the Republic of Korea and provided training on organic agriculture practices, including weed management, organic crops production, composting, organic pricing. **2006**: (a) 18-20 October International Symposium on Agroecology at Chapingo, Texcoco, Mexico — Mr. Hepperly spoke on the relationship of soil to crop and animal nutrition; (b) 9-15 July — 18th World Congress of Soil Science, Philadelphia — Rodale Institute attended the conference and presented a poster. **Partnership/collaboration development**: (a) non-governmental organizations conference, Zurich — proposal development and partnership meeting with NGO partners; (b) Women's Campaign International — collaborative partner on potential regenerative agriculture education projects in Liberia and Malawi; (c) the Rodale Institute discussed collaboration with the Board of the Organic Agriculture Center, along with the commitment of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, to create technical institutes to conduct research and training centres for the education of farmers in organic practices particularly designed for the specific agroecological needs of the region; (d) the Rodale Institute hosted staff of the United States Agency for International Development Food for Peace organization on several occasions at the Rodale Institute farm in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, for presentations/field tours to learn about organic agriculture and Rodale's research and to discuss a strategic planning process for international work; (e) representatives travelled on many occasions to Senegal/West Africa to meet with farmers, merchants and local and state Government officials and policymakers to discuss issues facing West African farmers, potential partnerships, to plan training sessions on regenerative/organic agriculture techniques and to discuss the role Rodale Institute could play in Senegal and opportunities to promote organic agriculture principles.

6. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (Special: 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur is a congregation of Catholic Sisters founded in France in 1804 to serve the needs of the poor, especially women and children. Traditionally, most members worked in formal education (kindergarten through university), although today they are also involved in a wide range of informal education projects, adult literacy, primary health care, rural development, direct services to the poor, and advocacy work for justice and peace. The most relevant line of the organization's mission statement is: "Women ... working with others for justice and peace for all". Most of the members today in Africa are local women working in primary and secondary education. However, increasingly the sisters have become involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and direct care of persons living with AIDS. In Latin America, members are mostly working in

rural areas and the slums which surround major cities. A major focus of their work is the empowerment of women through adult literacy, training them to be leaders in their communities and advocates on behalf of those lacking social amenities. The Japanese members work throughout the country in formal education, pre-school through university. In United States of America and Europe (Belgium, France, Italy, United Kingdom) members are involved in the full range of activities mentioned above but give more attention to advocacy on behalf of the poor. The greatest increase in membership continues to be in Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe) and South America (Brazil, Nicaragua and Peru).

In July 2008, a representative body of the international membership met and named the following as priorities: addressing the growing inequality in the world; working with persons and peoples living in poverty, especially marginalized and abused women and children; responding to threats to the environment and the need for sustainable development.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: the principal focus of our non-governmental organization representative has been in the broad area of social development and the eradication of poverty. She has actively participated in all the meetings of the United Nations Commission for Social Development and served two terms as Chair of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Development. The representative has contributed to the preparation of documents in relation to the following themes: participation of those affected by policy; need to examine causes of social exclusion; international cooperation and partnerships; education as key to development; feminization of poverty; employment policies to engage youth and women; girls' education; importance of gender equality; link between poverty and HIV/AIDS; trafficking of women and children; migration and employment policy; child labour; rehabilitation and education programmes in prisons; human rights and employment policies; and government and NGO partnerships. Members of the organization have also participated in many sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Another area of keen interest is financing for development and the non-governmental organizations representative has regularly followed and participated in the many high-level dialogues in this area.

Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization has sent participants to the Department of Public Information non-governmental organizations annual conference, including members from Africa and Europe, and its representative regularly follows the weekly information briefings. One member of the New York non-governmental organizations Office is an active, contributing member of the Working Group on Girls of the UNICEF Committee.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: members were engaged for two years in writing an online course on the Millennium Development Goals.

These were used extensively by the entire non-governmental organizations membership for their self-education and are now available to students in secondary and tertiary institutions through the organization's website. They are also increasingly being accessed by the larger public.

Activities in support of global principles: a member of the organization, Dorothy Stang, was a recipient of the United Nations Prize in the Area of Human Rights in 2008 for her work and death as a human rights defender of the landless farmers in the Brazilian Amazon. The non-governmental organizations representative of the organization regularly follows the relevant non-governmental organizations committees: on social development and its subcommittee on the eradication of poverty; and non-governmental organizations working groups on financing for development and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ten times a year the representative issues the publication "SND at UN News Briefs", which keeps members informed of the work and issues at the United Nations. To help members understand better the work of the United Nations, the non-governmental organizations has sponsored 125 of its members to come from all the five continents for a stay of three days to two weeks. One member from the Democratic Republic of the Congo worked in the NGO Office for almost a full year and will be charged with getting the membership across Africa more involved.